

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

a scanner configured to scan a document and generate facsimile image information corresponding to the scanned document;

a plotter configured to print a received facsimile image;

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the facsimile image transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information.

2. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

a scanner configured to scan a document and generate facsimile image information

corresponding to the scanned document;

a plotter configured to print a received facsimile image;

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the facsimile polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information.

3. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

a scanner configured to scan a document and generate facsimile image information corresponding to the scanned document;

a plotter configured to print a received facsimile image;

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers,

in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the facsimile image transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agrees to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information.

4. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a transmission control portion which, when image information is transmitted, reads the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserts information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information.

5. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

a transmission control portion which, when a call is coming and polling reception is requested by the call originating terminal, reads the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserts information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

6. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agrees to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

a transmission control portion which, when image information is transmitted, reads the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserts information indicating said F-code in at least any

one page of the image information, but, when a call is coming and polling reception is requested by the call originating terminal, reads the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserts information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

7. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a transmission control portion which, when image information is transmitted, reads the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserts information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information.

8. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

a transmission control portion which, when a call is coming and polling reception is

requested by the call originating terminal, reads the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserts information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

9. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agrees to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

a transmission control portion which, when image information is transmitted, reads the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserts information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information, but, when a call is coming and polling reception is requested

by the call originating terminal, reads the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserts information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

10. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein a box type is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes of a previously specified box type as targets of the search.

11. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein a box type is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes of a previously specified box type as targets of the search.

12. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agrees to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in

document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein a box type is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes of a previously specified box type as targets of the search.

13. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the registered box types includes a confidential type and said previously specified box type is the confidential type.

14. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the registered box types includes a confidential type and said previously specified box type is the confidential type.

15. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the registered box types includes a confidential type and said previously specified box type is the confidential type.

16. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a password for authentication is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes for which an effective password is registered or respective effective passwords are registered as targets of the search.

17. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein a password for authentication is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes for which an

effective password is registered or respective effective passwords are registered as targets of the search.

18. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein a password for authentication is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes for which an effective password is registered or respective effective passwords are registered as targets of the search.

19. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said control portion, when finding said box, performs authentication operation using the password registered for said box, and, only when the authentication operation succeeds, agrees to accept the operation performed by the user.

20. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said control portion, when finding said box, performs authentication operation using the password registered for said box, and, only when the authentication operation succeeds, agrees to accept the operation performed by the user.

21. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said control portion, when finding said box, performs authentication operation using the password registered for said box, and, only when the authentication operation succeeds, agrees to accept the operation performed by the user.

22. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein authentication use allowance/rejection information is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when authentication use rejection is registered for the box found through the search, causes the search to fail.

23. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein authentication use allowance/rejection information is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when authentication use rejection is registered for the box found through the search, causes the search to fail.

24. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein authentication use allowance/rejection information is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when authentication use rejection is registered for the box found through the search, causes the search to fail.

25. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the registered box types includes a confidential type and said previously specified box type is the confidential type.

26. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the registered box types includes a confidential type and said previously specified box type is the confidential type.

27. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the registered box types includes a confidential type and said previously specified box type is the confidential type.

28. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein a password for authentication is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes for which an effective password is registered or respective effective passwords are registered as targets of the search, and

wherein authentication use allowance/rejection information is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when authentication use rejection is registered for the box found through the search, causes the search to fail.

29. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user

operates said apparatus for performing transmission;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein a password for authentication is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes for which an effective password is registered or respective effective passwords are registered as targets of the search, and

wherein authentication use allowance/rejection information is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when authentication use rejection is registered for the box found through the search, causes the search to fail.

30. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers,

in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agrees to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein a password for authentication is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when searching for the box for which the same value as that of the input F-code is registered, treats only the boxes for which an effective password is registered or respective effective passwords are registered as targets of the search, and

wherein authentication use allowance/rejection information is registered for each box, and, said control portion, when authentication use rejection is registered for the box found through the search, causes the search to fail.

31. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein display of the F-code for the user to confirm the F-code input by the user is a concealment form display such that only the number of digits of the input F-code is recognized.

32. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission;

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein display of the F-code for the user to confirm the F-code input by the user is a concealment form display such that only the number of digits of the input F-code is recognized.

33. (previously presented) A facsimile apparatus provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said apparatus comprising:

an F-code input requesting portion which requests a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document; and

a control portion which searches for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agrees to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agrees to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registers, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information,

wherein display of the F-code for the user to confirm the F-code input by the user is a concealment form display such that only the number of digits of the input F-code is recognized.

34. (currently amended) A method of controlling a facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the steps of:

scanning a document and generating facsimile image information corresponding to the scanned document;

printing a received facsimile image;

a) requesting a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission; and

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agreeing to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the facsimile image

transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information.

35. (currently amended) A method of controlling a facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the steps of:

scanning a document and generating facsimile image information corresponding to the scanned document;

printing a received facsimile image;

a) requesting a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document; and

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agreeing to accept the facsimile polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information.

36. (currently amended) A method of controlling facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the steps of:

scanning a document and generating facsimile image information corresponding to the scanned document;

printing a received facsimile image;

a) requesting a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document; and

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agreeing to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the facsimile image transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agreeing to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information.

37. (original) The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the step of, when image information is transmitted, reading the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserting information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information.

38. (previously presented) A method of controlling a facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

a) requesting a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for

producing a polling document;

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agreeing to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

c) when a call is coming and polling reception is requested by the call originating terminal, reading the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserting information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

39. (previously presented) A method of controlling facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the steps of:

a) requesting a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document;

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agreeing to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agreeing to accept the

polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

c) when image information is transmitted, reading the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserting information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information, but, when a call is coming and polling reception is requested by the call originating terminal, reading the F-code registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserting information indicating said F-code in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

40. (original) The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the step of, when image information is transmitted, reading the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserting information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information.

41. (previously presented) A method of controlling a facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the steps of:

a) requesting a user to input an F-code when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document;

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code

agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, agreeing to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation, identification information for said box as authentication information; and

c) when a call is coming and polling reception is requested by the call originating terminal, reading the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserting information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

42. (previously presented) A method of controlling facsimile apparatus, provided with boxes each corresponding to an F-code which is received through a facsimile transmission procedure, executing a center-machine application using the corresponding box based on sub-address information when receiving image information, said method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

a) requesting a user to input an F-code either when the user operates said apparatus for performing transmission or when the user operates said apparatus for producing a polling document;

b) searching for the box for which an F-code is registered, the value of which F-code agrees with the value of the F-code input by the user, and, only when finding said box, either agreeing to accept the transmission operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a transmission job relating to the transmission operation, identification information for said box as authentication information, or agreeing to accept the polling document producing operation performed by the user, and registering, in document managing information for managing a job relating to the polling document producing operation,

identification information for said box as authentication information; and

c) when image information is transmitted, reading the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information, and inserts information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information, but, when a call is coming and polling reception is requested by the call originating terminal, reading the box name registered for the box corresponding to the authentication information registered in the document managing information corresponding to the specified document to be transmitted, and inserting information indicating said box name in at least any one page of the image information to be transmitted.

43. (original) A facsimile apparatus having a plurality of confidential boxes, each confidential box characterized by a different F-code and different identification information, the apparatus comprising:

an input part that requests a prospective user to input an F-code when the prospective user seeks to use the apparatus to transmit confidential information; and

a control part that

searches among the plurality of confidential boxes for a confidential box whose characteristic F-code matches the F-code input by the prospective user and, if a confidential box characterized by the matching F-code is found,

enables the prospective user to transmit the confidential information only if the prospective user is authenticated by means of the characteristic identification information of the confidential box characterized by the matching F-code.

44. (original) A facsimile apparatus having a plurality of confidential boxes, each box

characterized by a different F-code and different identification information, the apparatus comprising:

an input part that requests a prospective user to input an F-code when the prospective user seeks to use the apparatus to produce a polling document; and

a control part that searches among the plurality of confidential boxes for a confidential box whose characteristic F-code matches the F-code input by the prospective user and, if a confidential box characterized by the matching F-code is found, enables the prospective user to produce the polling document only if the prospective user is authenticated by means of the characteristic identification information of the confidential box characterized by the matching F-code.

45. (original) A facsimile apparatus having a plurality of confidential boxes, each box characterized by a different F-code and different identification information, the apparatus comprising:

an input part that requests a prospective user to input an F-code when the prospective user seeks to use the apparatus either to transmit confidential information or to produce a polling document; and

a control part that searches among the plurality of confidential boxes for a confidential box whose characteristic F-code matches the F-code input by the prospective user and, if a confidential box characterized by the matching F-code is found, enables the prospective user either to transmit the confidential information or to produce the polling document only if the prospective user is authenticated by means of the characteristic identification information of the confidential box characterized by the matching F-code.

46. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in Claim 43, further comprising a transmission part that inserts the matching F-code into the confidential information when the confidential information is transmitted.

47. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in Claim 44, further comprising a transmission part that inserts the matching F-code into the polling document when the polling document is produced.

48. (original) The facsimile apparatus as claimed in Claim 45, further comprising a transmission part that inserts the matching F-code into the confidential information when the confidential information is transmitted or inserts the matching F-code into the polling document when the polling document is produced.

49. (original) A method of controlling a facsimile apparatus having a plurality of confidential boxes, each box characterized by a different F-code and different identification information, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting a prospective user to input an F-code when the prospective user seeks to use the apparatus to transmit confidential information;

searching among the plurality of confidential boxes for a confidential box whose characteristic F-code matches the F-code input by the prospective user; and, if a confidential box characterized by the matching F-code is found,

enabling the prospective user to transmit the confidential information only if the prospective user is authenticated by means of the characteristic identification information of the confidential box characterized by the matching F-code.

50. (original) A method of controlling a facsimile apparatus having a plurality of confidential boxes, each confidential box characterized by a different F-code and different identification information, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting a prospective user to input an F-code when the prospective user seeks to use the apparatus to produce a polling document;

searching among the plurality of confidential boxes for a confidential box whose characteristic F-code matches the F-code input by the prospective user; and, if a confidential box characterized by the matching F-code is found,

enabling the prospective user to produce the polling document only if the prospective user is authenticated by means of the characteristic identification information of the confidential box characterized by the matching F-code.